

PROPOSED RETENTION OF THE TRIVIAL NAME "DENTATUS" DIESING, 1839 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "STEPHANURUS DENTATUS") (CLASS NEMATODA)

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)188)

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(For original application, see 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 2 : 282-291.)

With reference to the name of the swine kidney worm (Commission's Reference Z.N.(S.)188) I wish to go on record as advocating the preservation of the name *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839. To suppress the trivial name *dentatus* would, I believe, create a condition of endless confusion. The parasite is not only of considerable economic importance but has seldom been referred to by any other specific name. There are over 300 references to the parasite by this name and less than 25 references for the combined list of synonyms. It is of interest to note that the trivial name *pinguicola* Verrill, 1870, had never appeared in print in combination with the generic name *Stephanurus* until placed there by Dr. Ellsworth C. Dougherty (1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 2 : 286) in his discussion of the correct name for the swine kidney worm.

Notwithstanding the excellent discussion by Dougherty (*l.c.*, 2 : 282-291), I believe there is some question as to whether there has ever been a condition of homonymy with reference to *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839. To have a condition of homonymy it is necessary that two species with the same trivial name must be brought together under the same genus ; that is, the two species must be congeneric or so regarded.

In point (8) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 4 : 121) dealing with the rejection of secondary homonyms previous to 1st January, 1951, an author is excused from the requirement of regarding the two species as being congeneric. Although not so stated in point (8), one must presume that the Code requires that before an author can reject a trivial name of a species, the species in question must have been placed in a genus containing another species with the identical trivial name. I contend that the case of *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839, does not meet this requirement ; and I will endeavour to show that there has never been a time when the two species of swine parasites, each with the trivial name *dentatus*, have been brought together under the same genus either by their common trivial name or by any other trivial name.

Here are, arranged chronologically, certain pertinent facts about the two swine nematodes with the trivial name *dentatus* that should not be overlooked :—

1803. Rudolphi named and described *Strongylus dentatus*, a nodular worm of swine.
1809. Rudolphi listed *dentatus* Rud., 1803, under the genus *Sclerostoma*. *Sclerostoma* Rudolphi, 1809, is a synonym of *Strongylus* Mueller, 1780, both genera having the same type species.
1839. Diesing named and described *Stephanurus dentatus*, the kidney worm of swine, as a new genus and a new species.
1861. Molin proposed the genus *Oesophagostomum* with *subulatum* Molin, 1861 as type species, and placed *dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, in the genus as a synonym of *subulatum* Molin, 1861. This action of Molin not only made the trivial name *dentatus* Rud., 1803, the valid type species of *Oesophagostomum*, but removed *dentatus* Rudolphi from future consideration under the genus *Strongylus* and its synonym *Sclerostoma*.

1870. Verrill named and described *Sclerostoma pinguicola*, a synonym of *Stephanurus dentatus*, Diesing, 1839. This date (1870) appears to be the earliest at which the kidney worm of swine was referred to the genus *Sclerostoma* (= *Strongylus*) nine years after *dentatus* Rud., 1803, had been removed from the genus *Sclerostoma*. At this date (1870) the name *dentatus* Diesing, 1839, was not mentioned in combination with the genus *Sclerostoma*.
1874. Dean, in discussing the pathology of the kidney worm of swine, referred to the parasite as *Strongylus dentatus*, apparently a faulty determination, having confused the name of the parasite with the old name of the nodular worm of swine.
1894. de Magalhães was apparently the first author to raise the question of homonymy. He regarded *Stephanurus* as a synonym of *Strongylus* and believed that as at one time *Strongylus dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, had been the name of a nodular worm of swine, the kidney worm of swine should take the trivial name *pinguicola* Verrill, 1870. At this date (1894) the trivial name *dentatus* Diesing, 1839, was not mentioned in combination with the genus *Strongylus*. Since de Magalhães did not indicate that he regarded *Oesophagostomum* Molin, 1861, (with *dentatus* Rudolphi as type species) as a synonym of *Strongylus* Mueller, 1780, he did not set up a condition of homonymy, as *dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, had been removed from the genus *Strongylus* 33 years previously.
1896. Railliet's brief reference to *Stephanurus* as a synonym of *Sclerostomum* has been interpreted by Dougherty (l.c. : 285 (iii)) to mean that Railliet regarded the two species of swine parasites with the identical trivial name as being congeneric. This is contrary to the facts for Railliet not only in the paper of this date (1896 : 160), but in previous papers, as well as in later publications, recognised the genus *Oesophagostomum* which has *dentatus* Rudolphi, 1803, as type species.
1900. Tayler also regarded *Stephanurus* Diesing, 1839, as a synonym of *Sclerostoma*, but, contrary to the statement of Dougherty (l.c.), she did not regard the two parasites of swine with the same trivial name as being congeneric. In her publication of this date (1900 : 624) she referred to the nodular worm of swine as "*(Oesophagostoma dentatum)*." She did not use the trivial name *dentatus* Diesing, 1839, in combination with *Sclerostoma*.

At no time has any author placed the nodular worm of swine in the genus *Stephanurus* and at no time has any author placed the kidney worm of swine in the genus *Oesophagostomum*. In view of the above chronological facts it is difficult to comprehend how there can be a condition of homonymy involving the species *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839.

Even should the views of the esteemed and learned members of the Commission, in this case, not agree with the interpretation outlined above, the writer desires to go on record as in favour of retaining the specific name *Stephanurus dentatus* Diesing, 1839, for the swine kidney worm.